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State Board of Health Meeting
Fairfax, Virginia
July 26, 2002

Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

Dr. Charles W. Hickey, Chairman of the State Board of Health, convened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. Minutes for the April 26, 2002, meeting were approved as amended and minutes of the meeting of May 24, 2002, were approved.

II. Chairman's Report

Dr. Hickey's report concerned Virginia Department of Health (VDH) activities for response to a bioterrorism incident and West Nile Fever Virus.

III. Members' Reports

Reports of members of the Board addressed strategic planning; patient safety; certificate of public need regulation and indigent care; lead screening; Healthy Virginians 2010, and faith-based prevention efforts.

IV. Commissioner's Report

Dr. Robert Stroube introduced Dr. James Burns, whom the Board approved as Chief Deputy for VDH. Dr. Burns has served VDH as a District Health Director for almost fifteen years in addition to serving in an acting capacity as Deputy Commissioner and Chief Information Officer. Dr. Burns is Board Certified in Pediatrics and did a fellowship in Infectious Diseases. He also has a Master's degree in Business Administration. The Board unanimously approved his appointment.

Dr. Stroube announced that Dr. Lisa Kaplowitz is the new deputy for Bioterrorism and Dr. John Marr will be the new Director of the Office of Epidemiology. Dr. David Suttle was just hired as the Director of the Office of Family Health Services. All key management positions in the agency are now filled.

The agency received notice June 6th of a \$24 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prepare for the event of a terrorist or bioterrorism attack.

V. RFA for Nursing Home Beds

The Board approved the proposed Request For Applications for 60 nursing home beds in Planning District 11 (Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, and Campbell Counties, and the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg) and for 120 nursing home beds in Planning District 13 (Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg Counties).

VI. Update of Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations

Robert Hicks, Director of Environmental Health Services, presented the update on the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations. These particular regulations had been included in regulations that were effective July 1, 2000, but were withdrawn at the request of the Commissioner because of public comment about their financial impact. The current draft reflects public input and will be posted in the Virginia Register for public comment on August 1, 2002. Two public hearings are scheduled for these draft regulations.

No official action was required of the Board in regard to the draft regulations.

VII. Loan Repayment Regulations

Rene Cabral-Daniels presented changes to the emergency regulations adopted by the Board in January of 2001. The changes would allow a Virginia scholar to also participate in the Virginia Physician Loan Repayment Program.

VIII. Virginia Health Information, Inc. (VHI)

Michael Lundberg, Executive Director of VHI, Inc. presented a description of the errors that can be caught automatically in the hospital discharge data system. The Board approved these data edits unanimously.

IX. Biennial Report on Toxic Substances in the Environment

Dr. Khizar Wasti, Director of the Division of Health Hazards Control, presented a draft report covering July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000. The Board approved the draft unanimously.

X. Radiation Protection Regulations

The Board approved the publication of draft regulations for radiation protection presented by Dr. Khizar Wasti.

XI. Regulations Governing Emergency Medical Services

The Board approved the regulations for Emergency Medical Services.

XII. Adjournment

The Board adjourned at 1:10 p.m.